



Friday  
March 25,  
2011

# Weekly Views

MSNBC crews are back at Wabash Valley, this time to begin taping MSNBC Lockup/Wabash Valley: Extended Stay, six one hour programs about the maximum-security facility. This week is scout week for the group, introducing themselves to staff and offenders and fine tuning story ideas for the series of special reports. Last week, another MSNBC crew was on grounds taping a two hour report about Youth Incarcerated as Adults.

Pendleton Juvenile hosted Sergeant James Todd of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, who presented a workshop relating to gang intervention. Sergeant Todd teaches Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) in Indianapolis Public Schools. During his visit at the facility, he presented a short version of the GREAT program. The workshop lasted approximately 2 ½ hours. Two groups of 15 students attended a session.



The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) has a secret weapon!!! The IWP ICAN dogs are fighting the illiteracy problem by listening to offenders practice their reading skills. The program is sponsored by the Indiana State Library. (see photo left.)

Pendleton Correctional Facility Training Department secretary Dixie Weir was honored during a retirement luncheon for 23 years of dedicated service to the Indiana Department of Correction. Congratulations Dixie!

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) held a graduation ceremony for 69 offenders celebrating their completion of the PLUS Program.

Delivering the graduation speech was Chaplain William Babb who will retire next Thursday, March 31, after nearly 27 years of service. Babb has worked with the program since it began at MCF in 2006.

Putnamville Correctional Facility received a visit from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). BMV staff members were on-site to help offenders prepare for release by providing them with State Identification Cards. The BMV was scheduled to provide 394 offenders at Putnamville with ID's over three days.

Sergeant Michael Gapski was appointed the new K-9 Field Commander of Miami Correctional Facility's K-9 Team. Gapski is replacing Charles Williams who was commander since the K-9's inception in 2007. According to Assistant Superintendent Daryl Walls, Sergeant Gapski brings years of experience in K-9 operations and has been the Assistant Field Commander of the K-9 team since its beginning. Under his guidance Miami's K-9 team will continue to be one of the best in the state and will maintain the high standards of outgoing Field Commander Chuck Williams.

The Correctional Industrial Facility conducted a ceremony and training for the Suicide Companions. Assistant Superintendent Michael Cunegin presented certificates for eight of the suicide companion volunteers, and Lead Psychologist, Dr. Sheree Hersey discussed and shared significant information.

The Indiana State Prison (ISP) held an Apprenticeship Graduation for 26 offenders who received certificates from the United States Department of Labor. ISP Lieutenant Hiram Sizemore and Officer Adrienne Gordon received a special award from the offenders present in appreciation of their dedication to the program.

Members of the Un-Chaind Ministries, Ellettsville House of Prayer and Integrity Ministries visited the Rockville Correctional Facility for the 8th annual Rockville Rockin' Revival. Offenders received an inspiring message of hope through music, message and personal testimonies.

Nikki Simpson and Regina Engle of the Wabash Valley March of Dimes visited the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, drumming up support for the upcoming March for Babies! Wabash coordinator Shawna Vair said Wabash will join 200 other area teams for the April 30th fund raising event. Vair added the PLUS unit made 200 custom quilts for babies receiving care at both Terre Haute hospitals.

Congratulations to four recently promoted Pendleton Correctional Facility employees who were recognized during a pinning ceremony conducted in Superintendent Alan Finnan's office. Correctional Officer David Mason and Officer Daniel Arnold were promoted to the position of Correctional Sergeant, Sergeant Aaron Smith was promoted to Lieutenant, and Lieutenant Harold Counciller was promoted to Captain.

During Westville Correctional Facility's quarterly Roll-Call, Superintendent Levenhagen recognized 28 staff members with perfect attendance during 2010. The Perfect Attendance staffers received a Cash Spot Bonus and items donated by the Department's contract employees: Correctional Medical Services, Aramark and Ivy Tech.

Putnamville Correctional Facility held its facility wide recall meeting. This was the first meeting for Superintendent Stanley Knight since arriving at ISF. Stanley Knight shared his background in corrections and his vision for the future. Awards for Employees of the Quarter were announced: "Administrative Supervisor of the Quarter" went to Linda Yocom, "Administrative Employee of the Quarter" went to Karen Rogers, "Custody Supervisor of the Quarter" went to Sgt. Steven Rader, and "Custody Employee of the Quarter" went to Officer Jeffrey Deakins. Mike Shouse, a 40 year employee, was also given a special award for all of his years of service to Putnamville.